

Multicast Must Carry Requirement

I strongly support a must carry requirement for multicast as a matter of public interest.

WYTV (ABC affiliate in Youngstown, OH) is preparing to launch a multicast channel on September 5, 2006. It will be affiliated with MyNetworkTV and will have several locally produced programs to serve our community. The following programs will be exclusive to the channel when we launch and more will be added over time:

- 10:00pm local news
- 10:30pm local sports talk show
- 4:00pm to 5:00pm (M-F) news talk entitled "For The People" – this show will promote constructive dialogue on possible solutions to the serious issues in our community and hold elected officials accountable to public demands.

Unfortunately, we are having a great deal of difficulty securing cable clearance for the channel. Armstrong Cable has agreed to drop an out-of-market MyNetworkTV affiliate and provide carriage on their analog tier. Comcast is considering doing the same but cannot make a commitment. Time Warner will only provide clearance on their digital tier. Both Comcast and Time Warner carry multiple out-of-market stations on their analog tier, including duplicate MyNetworkTV channels.

Our plight is further complicated by the fact that WYTV is not part of large group of stations. We are the only station owned by Chelsey Broadcasting. Stations owned by large groups in the adjacent markets of Cleveland and Pittsburgh (Hearst, Raycom, Scripps, Sinclair) have the corporate clout to strike deals requiring cable operators to carry their stations in distant markets.

A must carry requirement for multicast (including carriage on the analog tier on systems that carry distant signals on their analog tier) is needed to ensure that local viewers have access to local programming and to permit small market stations to be competitive in their own markets.

Thank you for your consideration.

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